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Niles sends electric crews to Florida for hurricane response

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

A photo of one of the staging areas where crews are assembling prior to deployment.

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — The City of Niles announced Wednesday it has dispatched electric crews to Orlando, Florida in preparation for restoration efforts after incoming Hurricane Milton takes out power in portions of the state.

"This coordinated effort between the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA), Michigan Municipal Electric Association (MMEA) and the American Public Power Association (APPA) is a testament to local power communities' commitment to helping others in times of need," the city stated in a news release. "Our six employees and 30 others from municipal electric providers in Michigan are prepared to assist wherever needed, and along with our brethren return power to those areas impacted by this massive event. Municipalities dispatched are reimbursed by requesting agencies. Our thoughts are with those affected."

Attached is a photograph of one of the staging areas where crews are assembling prior to deployment.

LMC enrollment sees increase in fall

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College has seen significant growth for the second consecutive year, driven by a significant rise in the number of high school graduates choosing LMC as their entry point into higher education.

This fall, the college saw a 9 percent increase in total enrollment, bringing the student body to 3,362 students, a notable milestone. These students collectively enrolled in over 28,537 credit hours of courses — a 10 percent jump from the previous year— demonstrating a strong momentum among students working to complete their certificate or degree programs. Some high school dual enrollment and early/middle college numbers are still coming in and will take the final totals higher.

This enrollment surge highlights the growing appeal of LMC's robust academic offerings and the increasing accessibility of higher education to local students. The number of new, first-time college students at LMC has been climbing steadily:

- Fall 2022: 300 new first-time students
- Fall 2023: 394 new first-time students
- Fall 2024: 511 new first-time students

"We have met with hundreds of parents and high school counselors, and thousands of students over the past year, telling everyone about the incredible value LMC is as a college and a launching pad to a career or degree. We want prospective students to know what we offer and that we are here for them. We really are committed to their success," said Eric Wignall, director of admissions and recruitment.

Michigan Community College Guarantee and increased financial aid

This year marks a significant step forward for community college students in Michigan, with the introduction of the Michigan Community College (MCC) Guarantee. This state program allows recent high school graduates to earn a certificate or associate degree at any Michigan community college tuition-free, making higher education more accessible than ever before.

In addition to tuition coverage, eligible MCC Guarantee students who qualify for

See LMC, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

FROM SHELF TO TABLE

Honor Credit Union launches Pantry PowerUp initiative

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BERRIEN SPRINGS — This fall, Honor Credit Union is taking action to stock shelves and combat food insecurity across Michigan with Honor's Pantry PowerUp initiative.

In an effort to support its local communities, Honor is donating a total of $30,000 to food banks throughout the six regions they serve in Michigan. Their goal is to stock shelves and address the urgent needs of families and individuals facing economic hardships.

Founded in 1934, Honor Credit Union has grown to 28 locations statewide while maintaining a connection to the local community. The organization has a long history of supporting vital causes and is now focusing on combating food shortages by stocking shelves across the state.

"Although food drives are often busiest during the holidays, this year we're witnessing an urgent need that simply can't wait," said Jen Wagner, Community Relations Manager at Honor Credit Union. "Our Pantry PowerUp initiative is a reflection of our deep commitment to stepping up for our communities whenever

See TABLE, Page A8

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Honor Credit Union donated $2,500 to the Bread of Life pantry in Dowagiac.

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'Cyber abnormalities' responsible for EPS closure Sept. 30

STAFF REPORT

EDWARDSBURG — Cyber abnormalities prompted Edwardsburg Public Schools to take its network down and close its school buildings on Sept. 30, according to a letter sent to families in the district.

The district worked with third party information technology experts to make sure that the proper protocols are followed and the correct steps are taken as it worked to bring its network back up, which was done to investigate what occurred so that the district is able to work to prevent it from occurring in the future.

"Unfortunately, there have been many rumors being reported from parents and community members," wrote Superintendent Dr. Courtney Szucs. "Despite these rumors, the truth remains that we would not have had students return on (Oct. 1) if our buildings were not safe and if we did not have the ability to communicate with families and emergency personnel. This is why our first priority was to bring our phones back online for Tuesday. Our phones, staff email and all other aspects needed to run school safely are up and running."

According to Dr. Szucs, the internet is up and running for all students and staff.

"We have a few remaining items that we are working on, but overall the process of bringing our network back up has gone well. Our technology department has done a great job of working quickly so that staff and students have what they need to continue with their day to day educational activities."

Dr. Szucs thanked district staff for working to make the education of students possible during this time.

From what I have heard from students, including my own, our staff have made school not only as normal as possible, but have also added a little extra low tech fun," she said. "I want to reiterate that we would never have staff or students in buildings that we felt to be unsafe. Please know that we take this situation very seriously, but incidents tend to become sensationalized. As a district we will continue to communicate with our families only truthful and accurate information as it becomes available."

OBITUARIES

Sandra M. Wenze (Clark)
Curt Matthew Haman
Stacey O' Hara
Patricia Purdy
Donald Pye
Donna Sue Horner
Rev. Pamela Jean Breakey

A6

FRANKLY
TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"I just want honesty from our leaders. We are big boys and girls and can handle the truth."

A2

Cassopolis cancels last two games of football season

B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

"Let us go back to what is reliable, which is "paper and pen" since the days of ancient Egypt. I read about a hospital with nurses who were unable to type in their reports due to broken computers and ransomware. Why must we be dependent on electricity for everything?"

"All of our gains in LED bulb savings have been squandered by the bitcoin mining that is ravaging our electrical grid and driving up everyone's energy bills."

"The University of Cambridge's Bitcoin Electricity Consumption Index (CBECI) estimates that Bitcoin mining used 121.13 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity in 2023. This is more than many countries, including the Netherlands."

"The lies are dangerous. FEMA is NOT handing out money to illegals. And, the 'I'll say anything to win the election' lies must stop for heaven's sake."

"I just want honesty from our leaders. We are big boys and girls and can handle the truth."

"I can't believe we even considered Joe Biden as a candidate for yet another four years. I can barely walk, speak and eat. He has been hidden from the public for good reason."

"Go Lions Go!"

"So, 'Democrats now control hurricanes with lasers' according to Congresswoman Majorie Taylor Greene. This is actually a sitting member of Congress saying this stuff..."

"One year of bombing Gaza is enough. For those of you keeping score: 41,431 dead in Gaza and 1706 dead Israelis. There can be no winners in this disaster and meltdown of humanity. How did we get to the point where this is acceptable? A right to defend itself is one thing, but the children of Gaza did not fire a weapon."

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
30% Chance Rain Showers	50% Chance Rain Showers	50% Chance Rain Showers	30% Chance Rain Showers	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
71° 51°	66° 44°	56° 36°	52° 41°	59° 46°	70° 52°

ON BASE PRODUCTIONS
A WINNER AT 19TH ANNUAL W3 AWARDS

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Multimedia production business On Base Productions has announced it has been recognized as a winner in the prestigious 19th annual w3 Awards.

Celebrating the best in digital content across the globe, the w3 Awards honor excellence in Social Media Marketing and Content, Websites, Online Marketing & Advertising, Mobile Sites and Apps, Online Video, Podcasts, and Emerging Tech.

Each submission was reviewed by the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts, an exclusive body of industry leaders from renowned companies such as Walt Disney Studios, PepsiCo, Netflix, IBM, Deloitte Digital, and LG, among many others.

On Base Productions earned two prestigious awards for their outstanding video work:

• Gold Award for a video produced for the YMCA of Greater Michiana, showcasing the vibrant activities at their summer camp program at their O'Brien Center location.

• Silver Award for a video about the Cass District Library's Edwardsburg Branch highlighting why one of the frequent patrons, a child named Jasper, loves the library.

The winning videos can be viewed on the On Base Productions Vimeo Channel.

"These awards are not just a reflection of our team's hard work, but also of the incredible organizations we work with." said Charles Nelson, owner of On Base Productions. We are so proud of the videos we've created for the YMCA of Greater Michiana and the Cass District Library in Edwardsburg. These partnerships are a true highlight for us."

Nelson added, "The beauty of accolades like this is not only does it elevate our brand, but it also shines a spotlight on the organizations we serve, especially the non-profits. It's incredibly rewarding to see the impact of our work helping these communities grow and connect with their audiences."

"We are thrilled to see our YMCA O'Brien Center Summer Day Camp video recognized with such high honors," said Morissa Beckman, Director of Marketing for the YMCA of Greater Michiana. "The video perfectly captures the spirit and energy of our summer camp program, and we are so grateful to On Base Productions for their incredible work. It's a great achievement for us, and we look forward to celebrating this recognition together."

"One of our primary missions is to cultivate a community that not only engages with the library but also regards it as a safe haven that promotes personal growth for individuals of all ages." Said Molly Harwood, Marketing and Program Coordinator for the Cass District Library. "And videos like these help us in that regard."

This is the second year in a row On Base Productions has been recognized by the w3 awards.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Charles and Jessica Nelson of On Base Productions.

Niles man gets prison time for firearms possession

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — A Niles man who physically assaulted a woman and had drugs in his possession was sentenced to prison Thursday in United States District Court.

Shauntay Wade, 43, of Niles, was sentenced by United States District Court Senior Judge Jon E. DeGuilio after being found guilty of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm following a 3-day jury in February 2024, announced United States Attorney Clifford D. Johnson.

Wade was sentenced to 86 months in prison followed by 2 years of supervised release.

According to documents in the case in December 2021, Wade physically assaulted a woman, pointed a gun at her, and then hid the gun once a 911 call was made. Responding officers found the gun along with over 150 grams of marijuana and 35 grams of cocaine. Wade has several prior felony convictions, any one of which prohibit him from possessing the firearm in this case.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with assistance from the Mishawaka Police Department and Indiana State Police Laboratory.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Hannah T. Jones and Katelan McKenzie Doyle.

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Representatives from the U.S. and Niles Chamber and Congressman Tim Walberg were on hand at Alro Steel Monday for the announcement.

U.S. Chamber endorses Rep. Tim Walberg for Michigan's 5th Congressional District

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The U.S. Chamber of Commerce announced Monday its endorsement of Rep. Tim Walberg to represent Michigan's Fifth Congressional District.

The U.S. Chamber endorses candidates for federal office who will stand up for free enterprise, including by vigorously advocating for public policy solutions that will spur economic growth, support jobs, and promote businesses of all sizes' ability to continue to innovate and invest in America.

"The U.S. Chamber is pleased to announce our endorsement of Representative Tim Walberg in Michigan's 5th Congressional District," said Kevin Courtois, Vice President of the U.S. Chamber's Great Lakes Region. "Representative Walberg has been a champion for Michigan businesses and communities, advancing pro-growth tax and energy policies in Congress, and a leader fostering a regulatory environment that allows Michigan businesses and families to prosper. We are proud to stand with Representative Walberg and look forward to working together in the 119th Congress."

"Tim Walberg is the kind of leader we need in Congress: someone who brings people together and delivers positive results for Michigan families," added Jim Holcomb, President & CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. "Tim is fighting to strengthen our economy, rein in out of control government spending and ensure the American Dream is still achievable for employers and their employees," continued Holcomb. "The Michigan Chamber supports his bid for re-election because his leadership is what our Country needs during these challenging times."

Representatives from the U.S. and Niles Chamber and Congressman Tim Walberg were on hand at Alro Steel, 1775 Foundation Drive, Niles, for the announcement.

"I'm proud to have earned the endorsement of the U.S. Chamber," Rep. Tim Walberg said. "I will continue working to grow jobs, train a competitive workforce, and encourage economic growth and prosperity. As we look forward, we must all work together to cut harmful taxes and regulations, which limit American ingenuity."

"Congressman Walberg has spent a lot of time getting to know the people and the job providers here in Niles," added Ryan Boeskool, Executive Director of the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce. "We're grateful to have a strong advocate for Niles in congress."

Brandywine school board to interview candidates for vacant seat

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Brandywine school board members held a brief meeting Monday night to handle a number of routine matters.

Members will meet again next Monday to interview applicants to serve the remaining two years of Payne's unexpired term.

Superintendent Travis Walker said his office has received two applications so far. He told board members that he will provide them with the information provided by the applicants in advance of next Monday's meeting.

He noted that the process will be the same as it was in July when the board interviewed applicants to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Angela Seastrom. The board deadlocked at that time and the Berrien RESA Board ended up interviewing applicants and appointed former Superintendent John Jarpe to fill the vacancy.

With Payne's resignation, two of the four board members elected in November, 2022 have resigned with Board President Elaine McKee and Trustee Michelanne McCombs the only ones left of those four. The tenure of the four elected in 2022 has been filled with controversy and one failed recall attempt.

Payne submitted his resignation to McKee in a letter dated Sept. 27.

"It has been an honor to serve the District and the Brandywine community as President and now as Vice President," he wrote. "I sincerely wish the Board of Education the best in all that is to be accomplished both now and in the future."

Monday, board members took action on the most recent controversy the board has been dealing with, that of how to handle new federal Title IX rules that expand protections for transgender students. The board approved the formation of a new ad hoc committee to get input on what the district can do to protect all students' rights.

That committee will be made up of students, staff and parents in addition to the two

See SEAT, Page A8

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet **Nalani**, a black cat with Paws of Hope. Nalani is described by volunteers as sleek and alluring,and wherever she goes, intrigue and mystery are sure to follow. She's a quiet one, though has a penchant for playing with mouse toys when no one's looking. Nalani would prefer a calm home with adult humans, either alone, with other cats or maybe a mellow dog. Contact Paws of Hope at information@pawsofhope.org.

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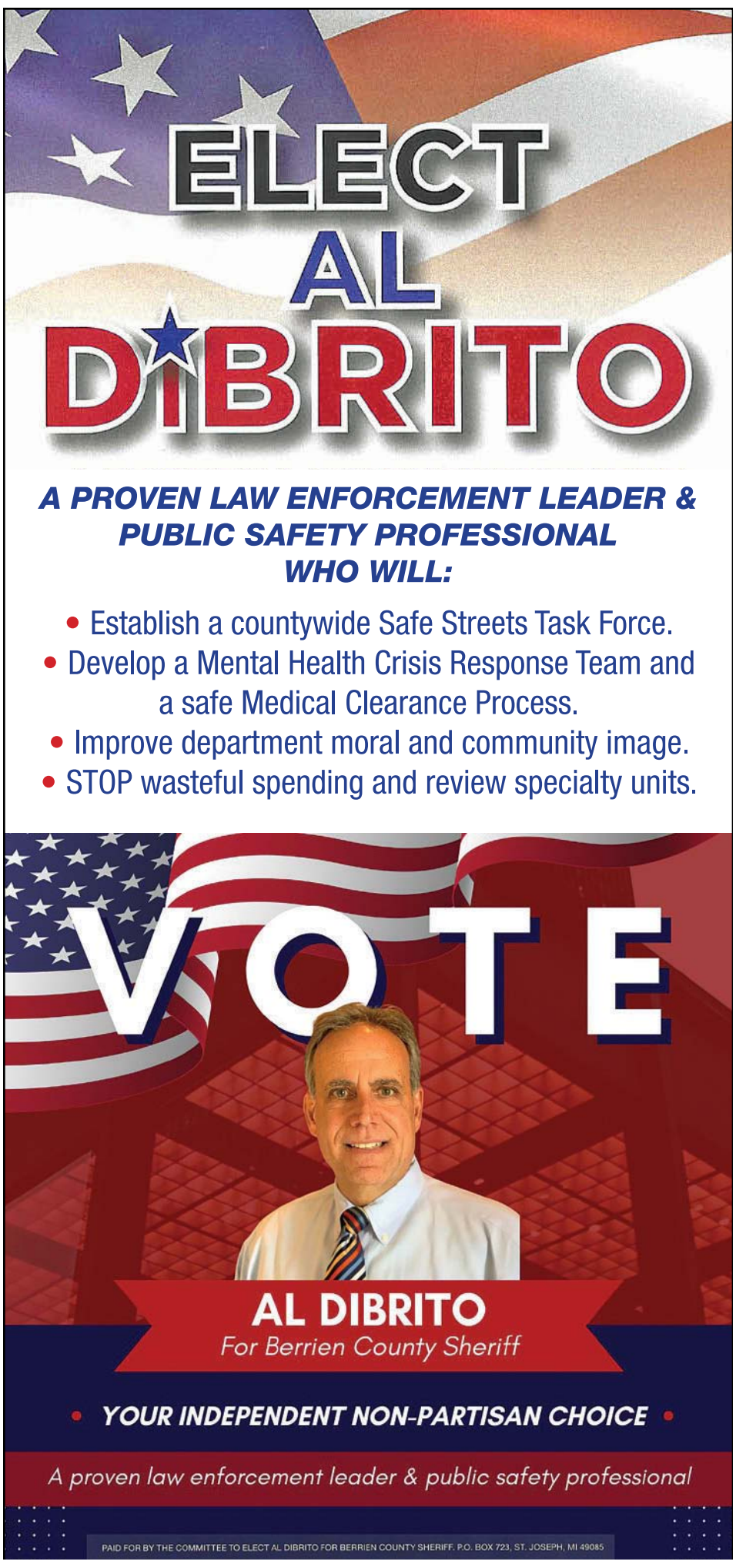
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Opinion

The Most Important Election Ever

By RICH CAINS
Publisher, Leader Publications

The first time I voted in a national election was in 1984. I was 18 years old and felt a strong sense of pride in casting my first vote as an adult-ish American. My political knowledge lacked much sense of left vs right, liberal vs conservative, and I was far more consumed with current events including movies like "The Terminator," "Ghostbusters" and "A Nightmare on Elm Street" and songs such as "Jump," "Dancing in the Dark," and "Legs." Even though I had studied government my senior year in high school, I was still oblivious to the picket fence that separated the two major political parties. That picket fence no longer exists today, it is now a 30-foot concrete wall with barbed wire, landmines and a moat providing a grand separation between the two major political parties. Every debate, political talk show and Thanksgiving dinner now begins with the words "choose your weapon." Most of us enjoy a good political discussion amongst friends, family, colleagues and even a few strangers, but those conversations seem to be drifting more toward a ticking time bomb nowadays.

Cains

The 1984 election race, of course, included the vibrant incumbent, Ronald Reagan and the stoic statesman Walter Mondale. The real race was the Democratic primary between Mondale, Gary Hart and Jessie Jackson. As I recall, the 1984 presidential election was the most important in history. And then, there was the George H. W. Bush race against Michael Dukakis which was the most important election in history, followed by the Bush and Bill Clinton race which was the most important in history..... do I need to continue? I think it's safe to say the next election will always be the most important no matter who is running.

As I mentioned in a column a few months ago, cable "news" has lent a hand in the polarization of American politics with its biased reporting and now we are doing battle with artificial intelligence (AI) and the fake videos being blasted all over social media. It's almost to the point that we can no longer trust any video we see on our phone or laptop. Images and audio are easily faked, and actual occurrences cannot be confirmed nor denied until well after they have already taken root in thorough discussion and shared through a plethora of social posts. Much of this deceitful activity is homegrown and causes self-inflicted wounds. We also know bad players outside of the United States continue to shower Americans with inaccurate information affecting how we vote and steer our conversations with one another. It's no wonder that polarization exists in our political arena with all the falsehoods competing with our good sense of judgment.

For me, I have tried to incorporate my voting decisions, even more now than ever, through a wide spectrum of media outlets including broadcast TV, public radio and reputable national newspapers. I need to do my due diligence to learn the facts and seek the truth before I vote. Why? Because, after all, this is the most important election ever.

NEWS

Niles Township Fire Chief retires

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Publications
Contributor

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — The Niles Charter Township Board met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday.

They took several actions, including those relating to the retirement of Fire Chief Tim Jesswein and voting on a resolution relating to Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Services.

After serving for three years as Fire Chief, Tim Jesswein submitted his letter of resignation for retirement on Oct. 7. Jesswein noted serving 18 years as a full time firefighter and driver in his letter. Among the accomplishments he mentioned is maintaining buildings and up-to-date equipment without the need of additional township funding, with truck financing being the exception.

He thanked the board for cooperation, as well as the staff of both the township and the fire department. The Township Board voted to officially accept the resignation and have opened up the position for applications.

The board also voted to approve Resolution 24-22, increasing for a period of 1 year a $45 cost per applicable parcel for funding of the township portion of Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Services. In recent years, SMCAS has approached the municipalities it serves, asking for an increase in funding. The service had requested a step-up increase over multiple years to $50 per applicable parcel, but the township chose to increase it to only $25 at the time, instead requesting additional details on the operations and budgetary processes of SMCAS. Niles Charter Township is one of six municipal owners of the service and is responsible for 33 percent of its service, the largest share.

The $45 was approved for one year, according to Township Supervisor Marge Durm-Hiatt, as the future of the service includes many unknowns, including talks of possible mergers with other services. Durm-Hiatt expressed the desire of the township to have flexibility to adapt to any changes that may come. Niles Charter Township held three recent public hearings on the subject in order to give residents the ability to share their opinions.

The board also approved several delinquent bills to be applied to winter taxes, an annual step to assure payments on past due bills and fines for water, sewer, code enforcement, and special assessments.

Niles Charter Township will be holding a special 2025 budget workshop meeting at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16. The next Niles Charter Township Regular Board Meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21. Both meetings take place at the Fire Department South Station at 2049 South 3rd St. in Niles Charter Township.

CASA of Southwest Michigan moves to New Benton Harbor location

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — Providing a voice to the area's youngest community members, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Southwest Michigan announced the opening of its new office located at 53 W. Wall St., Benton Harbor.

A special ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16 with the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber.

Founded in June 2016, CASA of Southwest Michigan is part of a national network of over 950 CASA programs across the United States. Their mission is to provide highly trained community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in foster care. Since inception, they have trained over 120 volunteers and served more than 325 children across Berrien and St. Joseph Counties. However, there is still much work to be done, as every year approximately 200 children enter foster care in Berrien County due to extreme abuse and neglect.

"CASA of Southwest Michigan plays an indispensable role in our community by ensuring that vulnerable children have a dedicated advocate in their corner during some of the most challenging times of their lives," says Arthur Havlicek, Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber President & CEO. "Their commitment to service and justice not only impacts the children they serve, but also strengthens the entire child welfare system."

Relocating to a nearby space, allows the CASA team to be in close proximity to the Berrien County Courthouse and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) office, allowing their team to better serve the community and meet the needs of abused and neglected children in the foster care system.

"This milestone reflects the collective impact of our donors' enduring generosity, our supporters' passion, and our Board of Directors' strategic guidance. Their combined efforts form the bedrock of our progress," said Kate Rendell, Executive Director of CASA of Southwest Michigan.

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, in 2023 there were more than 591 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Berrien and St. Joseph Counties, and 310 children were placed in foster care. As CASA expands their efforts to serve the region, they need community support in a number of ways including: volunteering, donations, or simply spreading awareness, every contribution makes a lasting impact on the lives of local children.

Under the CASA model, every child assigned to their program is supported by a two-person team: a dedicated CASA volunteer and a CASA volunteer coordinator. Volunteers undergo over 30 hours of pre-service training before being appointed to a child's case by a Family Court Judge. Each volunteer visits their assigned child every 7 to10 days or monthly if the child is placed outside the county, ensuring that these vulnerable youth have a consistent, caring advocate who can help them navigate the complex foster care system.

Research consistently shows that children with a CASA volunteer spend less time in foster care and are more likely to find permanent homes compared to those without a CASA. Judges who work with CASA volunteers overwhelmingly agree that CASA volunteers positively influence court decisions and improve outcomes for children and families. In fact, nearly 99 percent of judges surveyed nationwide believe that CASA volunteers enhance their ability to make the best possible decisions regarding a child's future.

Locally speaking, CASA of Southwest Michigan's program volunteers dedicated nearly 3,000 hours to youth in foster care last year alone, providing services at an approximate cost of $1,800 per child. As an organization, their goal is to ensure that every child in need is matched with a CASA volunteer and ultimately finds a safe and permanent home.

"This relocation breathes fresh energy into our mission of equipping our dedicated volunteers, whose tireless advocacy transforms the lives of youth we're privileged to serve," Rendell added.

To learn more about their mission, volunteer, or donate, please visit www.CASASWMI.org or follow them on Facebook at @CASA-SouthwestMichigan.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Oct. 11-12
Fall Rummage, Bake Sale

First United Methodist Church, 326 N. Lowe St., Dowagiac, is hosting its annual Fall Rummage and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12. Items include furniture, clothing, a complete full-size bed, an extra-long twin mattress and more. Saturday will feature a bag sale for $4 per bag. Buying two bags means the third bag is free. Marked clothing and other items will be half price. For more information, contact Darlene at (269) 782-8551.

October 11
Trivia Night Fundraiser

The Dowagiac Fine Arts Boosters Club is hosting a Trivia Night Fundraiser at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11 at VFW Post 1855. The fundraiser will be used to help provide supplemental materials for arts, music and theater at Dowagiac Union Schools and also provide scholarships for college and arts camps. Cost is$100 per table with up to 10 people per team. Teams are encouraged to bring snacks to share at the table and drinks will be available to purchase at the VFW bar. This event is for ages 21+. There will also be a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and prizes for the top three scoring teams. Registration must be completed by Friday, Oct. 4. To register, call 269-782-9208. Those with questions can call the number above or email fineartsboosters24@yahoo.com.

October 13
Newton House Festival

The Cass County Historical Society has announced its annual Fall Festival, taking place from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13. The event will be held at the Newton House, located at 20689 Marcellus Highway, Decatur, MI, on the historical grounds. Activities include hayrides, petting zoo, yard games for kids, a live puppeteer, guided Newton House tours, live music, and our 1st annual kids pie eating contest for ages 4-15. Local artisans will be showcasing their talents, and civil war reenactors will be on site with artillery demonstrations. There will also be a reading from Dowagiac native and esteemed author, Ron Kirkwood's new book on Gettysburg's George Spangler Farm and a raffle for autographed copies of both of his books. For more information see the Facebook pages for either the Newton House or the Cass County Historical Society.

For more information, visit the Facebook pages for either the Newton House or the Cass County Historical Society.

Oct. 19
Walkathon

The Ronda L. Lucas-Sullivan Legacy Foundation is hosting its second annual Walkathon from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 at Dowagiac Union High School.

The walkathon is asking participants to come out to walk and help fundraise money for scholarships given to two high school seniors attending traditional or trade schools. This year the foundation is asking participants to find pledges that would like to donate per lap or, if preferred, give a flat rate donation. There are also shirts that can be ordered for the event and gear that will be available for purchase the day of the event.

Send calendar items to the newsroom at news@leaderpub.com, or drop them off at the office, 217 N. Fourth St., Niles.

Niles Daily Star

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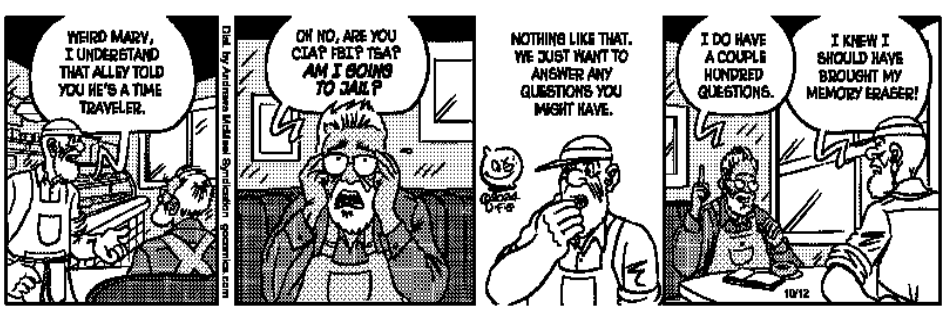
COMICS & PUZZLES

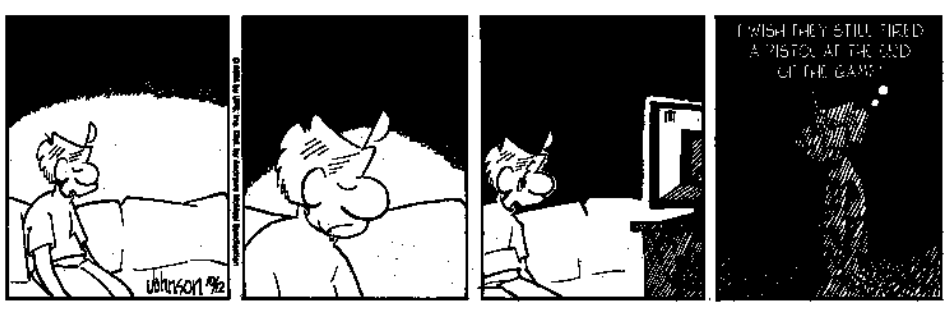
ADAM

KATY, SORRY IF MY SPIDER COSTUME FREAKED YOU OUT.
IT DIDN'T FREAK ME OUT. YOU AREN'T THAT..
AAAAAAAA!
OKAY. YOUR FLY AWAY HAIRS LOOKED LIKE SPIDER LEGS.
SORRY. I'LL GET SOME HAIR GEL.

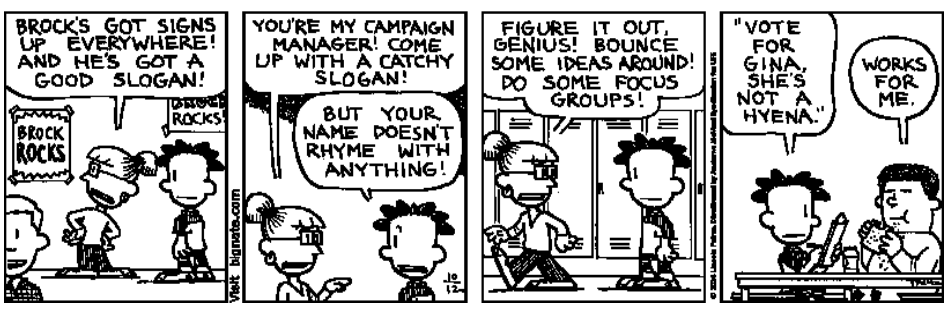
ALLEY OOP


WEIRD MARY, I UNDERSTAND THAT ALLEY TOLD YOU HE'S A TIME TRAVELER.
OH NO, ARE YOU CIAP FBIP TSAP AM I GOING TO JAIL?
NOTHING LIKE THAT. WE JUST WANT TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.
I DO HAVE A COUPLE HUNDRED QUESTIONS.
I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT MY MEMORY ERASER!

ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE


BROCK'S GOT SIGNS UP EVERYWHERE! AND HE'S GOT A GOOD SLOGAN!
BROCK ROCKS
YOU'RE MY CAMPAIGN MANAGER! COME UP WITH A CATCHY SLOGAN!
BUT YOUR NAME DOESN'T RHYME WITH ANYTHING!
FIGURE IT OUT, GENIUS! BOUNCE SOME IDEAS AROUND! DO SOME FOCUS GROUPS!
"VOTE FOR GINA, SHE'S NOT A HYENA."
WORKS FOR ME.

BORN LOSER

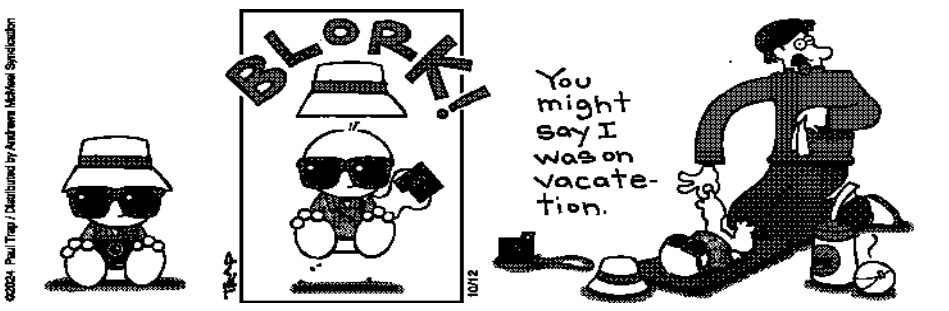
YOU'RE ON QUITE A TREND— EIGHT ON THE FIRST HOLE, NINE ON THE SECOND, TEN ON THIS ONE...
IT BRINGS TO MIND A CLASSIC ROCK SONG...
FAIRWAY TO ELEVEN.

FRANK & ERNEST

GRIZZWELLS

HOW WAS YOUR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION?
A LOT DIFFERENT THAN THE FIRST ONE I WENT TO
HOW SO?
AT THAT ONE, ALL THE WOMEN WERE PREGNANT...
AT THIS ONE, ALL THE MEN LOOKED PREGNANT

THATABABY



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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

				5	1	2		9
		3					7	
8					7		3	
						1		
9				6				5
		6						
	9		2					7
	5					3		
7		8	9	4				

MODERATELY CONFUSED

THE HARDEST PART OF CARVING A PUMPKIN IS TRYING TO FIND A NEWSPAPER TO SPREAD OUT ON THE TABLE UNDER IT.
STAHLER.
10/12
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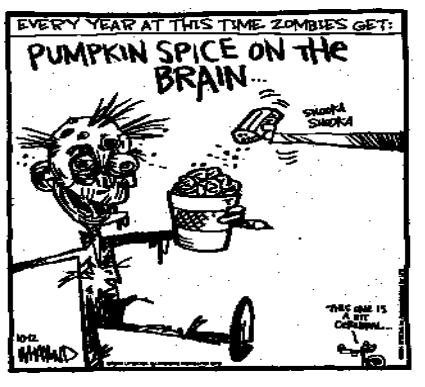
REALITY CHECK

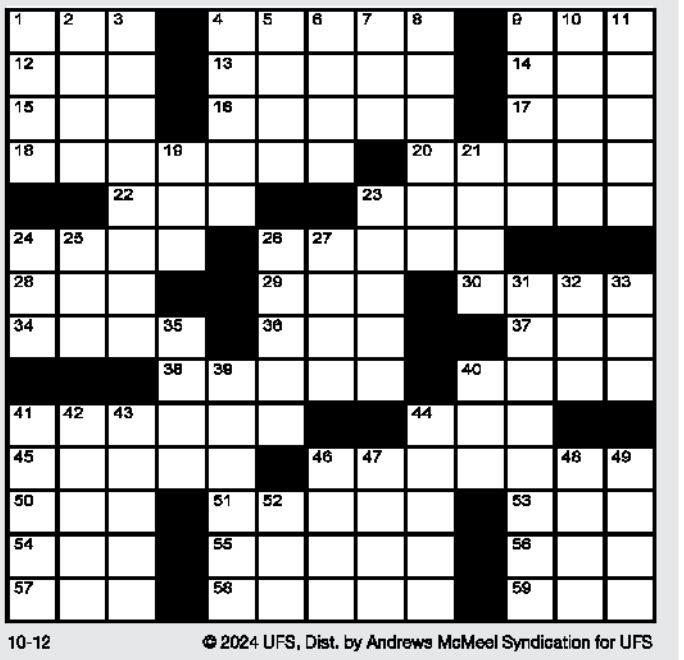


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Water barrier
4 Like a Thanksgiving turkey
9 Lummox
12 Sporty truck
13 Eclipse type
14 By way of
15 Pay- — -view
16 — acid
17 Food fragment
18 Put into code
20 Manservant
22 "— a boy!"
23 Tune
24 Ump's cry
26 Bee injury
28 Old French coin
29 Candle material
30 Help in wrongdoing
34 Ridge
36 Big bird
37 Altar constellation
38 Farm animal
40 Twist
41 Narrow passage
44 Female deer
45 Group of musical notes
46 Cowboy hat
50 Alert color
51 — Lama
53 Hasten
54 Parisian pal
55 Make into law
56 CIA forerunner
57 Ballpoint
58 Dapper
59 Animal companion

DOWN
1 Con
2 Two fives for — —
3 Compassionate
4 Makes music
5 Sugar unit
6 Module
7 Chess piece
8 Demonstrated
9 Convex molding
10 Broadcast
11 Not very lean
19 Numbered rd.
21 Seaweed
23 Muddle
24 Use needle and thread
25 High card
26 Sugary
27 Domesticate
31 Where to buy pies and cakes
32 Before
33 Playing marble
35 Old Russian ruler (var.)
39 Concealed
40 Drunkard
41 Throw away
42 Motif
43 "Thinker" sculptor
44 God
46 Wood strip
47 Diplomat's forte
48 River in France
49 Aerie
52 Santa —, CA

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



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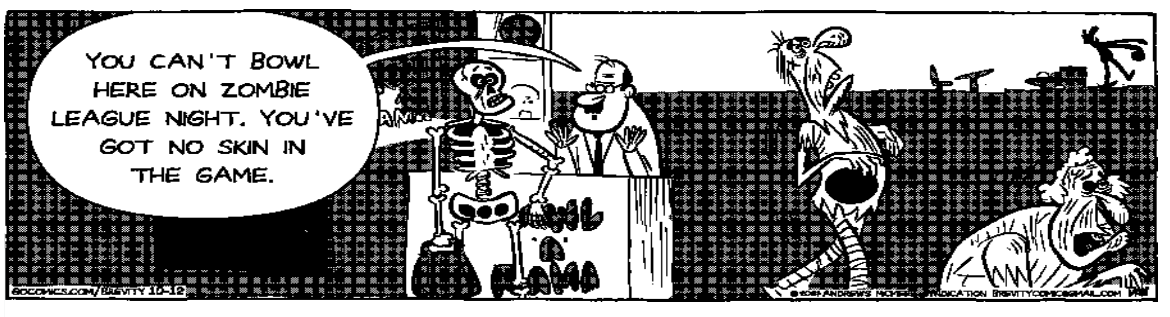
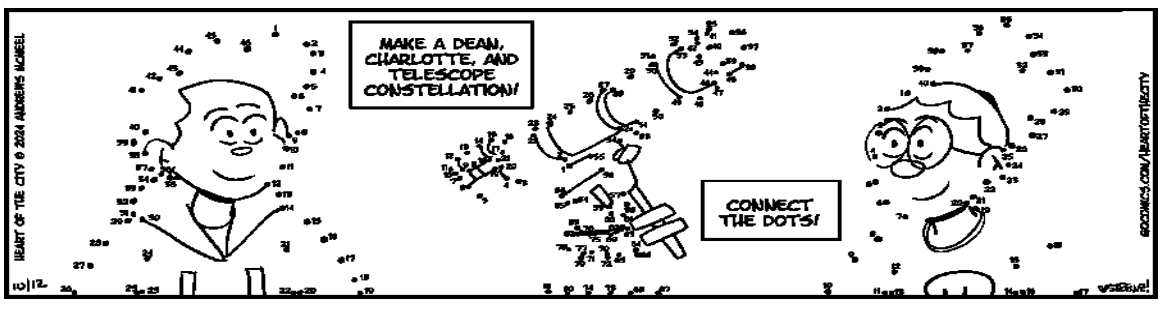
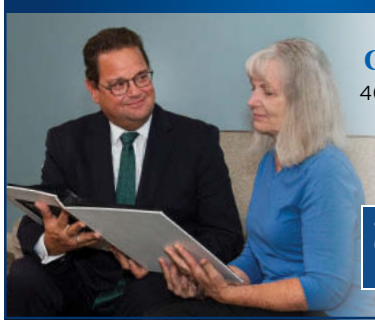
BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY



Celebrate a life

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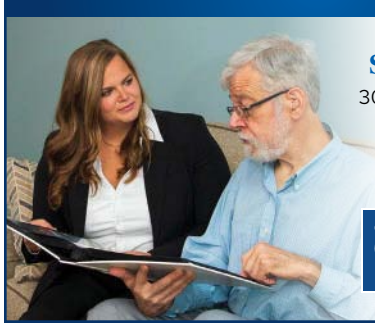
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December 4: The Texas Tenors - Deep in the Heart of Christmas - Blue Gate Performing Arts Center in Shipshewana, IN. Enjoy a delicious lunch and holiday show by the most successful music group in the history of America's Got Talent.
See our website or call for more information

DEATH NOTICES

Sandra M. Wenze (Clark), age 61 of Aurora, Colorado and formerly of Niles, MI died Sunday, September 22, 2024. A celebration of life will held Monday, October 14, 2024 @ 4pm MT at Crossroads Community Church, 9900 S Twenty Mile Road, Parker, CO 80134. Services will be live streamed (link: https://livestream.com/visit-crossroads/memorial)

Curt Matthew Haman, 66, of Buchanan, MI, passed away on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at The Willows in St. Joseph, MI. Arrangements have been entrusted to Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan, MI.

Stacey O' Hara, 49, passed away on Thursday, October 3, 2024 in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

OBITUARIES

Patricia Purdy

August 8, 1950 - September 4, 2024

Patricia "Patty" Purdy, a beacon of gentle kindness whose smile illuminated the lives of those around her, passed away peacefully on September 12, 2024, in her hometown of Niles, MI, at the age of 74. Born on August 8, 1950, to the late John and Marie Purdy, Patty was a lifelong resident of Niles, where her warm presence became a familiar comfort to her community.

Patty, attended Michigan State University and carried the Spartan spirit throughout her life, demonstrating the same resilience and camaraderie in her personal endeavors. She dedicated many years of service to the hospitality industry, where her radiant smile was the first welcome many received.

In her personal life, Patty's passions were a reflection of her tender nature. An avid bird watcher, she found joy in the simple pleasure of feeding the winged visitors that frequented her garden. Her love for animals was expansive, but it was her cats that held a special place in her heart, each one cherished and adored as a member of her family.

Patty's artistic talents were as diverse as they were impressive. With nimble fingers, and inspiration from social media, she created beautiful works of cross-stitch, crocheting, and various handcrafts that she lovingly shared with friends and family. Patty treasured each opportunity to make people feel like they mattered, due to her caring and positive mentality, which was especially present during the Christmas season towards her cousin's George and Patty's family.

A gentle, loyal, kind, and artistic soul, Patty is survived by her brother, James Purdy, and his wife, Cheryl, who remember her as a kind-hearted sister with a generous spirit. Patty's legacy is one of compassion, a quality that she effortlessly weaved into the tapestry of her life, leaving behind memories etched with her soft-spoken grace. Family was a cornerstone of Patty's life, and she would always make sure everyone was remembered, especially during the holidays.

The absence of Patty's gentle presence will be deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her life was a testament to the quiet strength that lies in kindness, and her memory will be cherished as a reminder of the beauty that can be found in life's simplest pleasures.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation have been asked to consider Pet Refuge, 4626 S. Burnett Drive, South Bend, IN 46614.

A memorial service to celebrate Patty's life will take place October 19, 2024 at 11 a.m. with a time of visitation one hour prior at Brown Funeral Home, 521 East Main Street, Niles, Michigan.

Photos, condolences, and memories may be left for Patty's family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Patty's journey through life was marked by the love she shared and the lives she touched. As we bid farewell to Patricia "Patty" Purdy, we celebrate the enduring light of her spirit that will continue to guide us through our own paths, just as her unwavering kindness has illuminated so many. Patty's story does not end with her passing but lives on in the hearts of those who loved her and in the beauty of the world she so appreciated.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles.

Donald Pye

April 26, 1932 - October 5, 2024

Donald Pye, 92, of Dowagiac, passed away Saturday afternoon, October 5, 2024, at The Timbers of Cass County.

He was born on April 26, 1932, in Mapleton, Maine, the son of the late Thomas and Eva (Judkins) Pye. Don was a veteran of the United States Army serving during the Korean War. On June 7, 1975, Don was united in marriage to the former Reba Sue Kent in Dowagiac.

Don worked for the City of Dowagiac Parks Department for 14 years until his retirement. He enjoyed his retirement by continuing to work park time at Hale's True Value for 12 years. He was an avid Boston Red Sox fan, but the Atlanta Braves came close behind. His hobbies included tinkering and repairing lawn mowers, among many other things. He enjoyed spending time with his chihuahuas and also loved attending his grandchildren's sporting events.

Surviving are seven children - Dawn (Rich Spradley) Rugar, Debra (Allen Prigel) McTeague, David (Kim) Pye, Cindy (Bob) Simmons, Cheri (Jim Smith) Pye, Barry Johnson, Donald Jr (Erica) Pye; fifteen grandchildren - Jessica (Phillip) Gray, Brandon (Lauren) Simmons, Justin (Lauren) Joanis, Mathew (Katie Hendrix) Joanis, Diondra (Ashley) McTeague, Grant Rugar, Alyssa Rugar, Emily Johnson, Taylor Pye, Aaron Pye, Chalee (Dylan) Elmore, Noah Miston, Dave Pye, Hunter Pye and Justice Pye; eighteen great-grandchildren; sister - Betty Erskine; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his wife of 48 years, Reba Pye; two grandsons - Michael Anthony and Alexander McTeague; and four siblings - Thomas Pye, Rowena Whitmyer, Clyde Pye and Ella Grueter.

A service with military honors to celebrate Don's life will be held at 12:00 PM on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at Clark Chapel and Cremation Services - Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center Street, where friends may visit with the family from 10:00 AM until the time of service. Inurnment will follow a funeral luncheon at 3:00 PM in Riverside Cemetery, Dowagiac. Please visit Don's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave condolences to his family at www.clarkch.com.

Donna Sue Horner

December 8 , 1962 - October 6, 2024

Donna Sue Horner, 61, entered into rest with her Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, October 6, 2024, in Niles, Michigan.

Donna was born on December 8, 1962 in Buchanan, Michigan to the late Clarence Murdock and Evagene (Wilson) Murdock. Left to cherish the memory of Donna is her loving husband, Floyd Horner; children, Ryan (Amanda) Horner and Stephanie (Bill) Matthews; 3 grandchildren, Aiden Deal, Violet Horner, Jonathan Horner and siblings, Richard (Jackie) Murdock, Jeanette (Larry) Housour, and Dorothy (Eric) Axelberg. Donna, a beloved figure in her community, was known for her warmth and her refusal to ever meet a stranger, welcoming all with open arms. A lover of the great outdoors, Donna found peace and happiness in life's simple pleasure - from serene afternoons at the pool or lake to the thrill of riding motorcycles through the countryside. She cherished the time spent with her family above all, especially those precious moments playing cards, spending time with her grandchildren and savoring Jackie's homemade cookies. Reading was another of Donna's passions, a hobby that reflected her love for learning and adventure. She also enjoyed vacationing to Mexico, where the sun and sea seemed to celebrate her zest for life. Donna's radiant smile and indomitable spirit will be deeply missed, but her memory will forever be a guiding light to those she loved. Visitation for Donna will be on Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 10:00am to 10:30am with a Celebration of Life to be held at 10:30am at Faith for Life Church, 1928 E Bertrand Rd. Niles, MI 49120. (The family has asked that due to health issues with Mr. Floyd Horner, please do not attend the service if you are not feeling well, thank you.) In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in honor of Donna may be made out to Alzheimer's Association. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home. Photos, condolences, and memories may be left for Donna's family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Donna, please visit our floral store.

Rev. Pamela Jean Breakey

March 26, 1946 - October 5, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the peaceful passing of Pamela Jean Breakey, age 78, after a courageous 20 year journey of living with metastatic breast cancer, on October 5th, 2024 at home in Dowagiac, Michigan. She was born March 26, 1946, to Bethea (Johnston) Breakey and Loyd Breakey in Berkeley, California.

Pamela Breakey is survived by her loving family: husband - Michael Heidenreich, daughter - Kathy (David) Kortering, step-daughters - Carly and Addie Heidenreich, granddaughters - Rylan Miller, and Rachel Kortering, and brother - James Breakey. She was preceded in death by her mother - Bethea Breakey, father - Loyd Breakey and brother - Doug Breakey.

Growing up, Pamela enjoyed being a daddy's girl and the oldest sibling to her two younger brothers, Jim and Doug. Some of her favorite memories included growing up on a farm in Napa, California, and camping with her family. She developed an early love for animals and had pets over her lifetime that included goats, horses, cats, dogs, fish and gerbils. She got her love of travel from her parents, including hiking and camping in State and National Parks, and traveling to other countries.

In school, she was active in 4H, theater, politics, and debate. She earned a National Merit Scholarship while at Cody High School in Wyoming, which brought her to Michigan State University, 1964-1973, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in English and a Master's Degree in Counseling, while raising her daughter, Kathy.

During the 1970s, Pamela was involved in the East Lansing Peace Council and the Muskegon Chapter of the National Organization for Women, including being a board member. There she met like-minded women and men striving for equality for all people. Many of the friendships developed there continued until her passing. She also participated in peaceful demonstrations to pass the Equal Rights Amendment and to impeach Nixon.

Upon earning her Master's degree, the family moved to Muskegon where she was a counselor with Muskegon Community Mental Health for 20 years, before answering her calling to become an Episcopal priest. She attended Seabury Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. While

See OBITUARIES, Page A7

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

D	A	M		P	L	U	M	P		O	A	F
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A	M	I		E	N	A	C	T		O	S	S
P	E	N		N	A	T	T	Y		P	E	T

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

4	6	7	3	5	1	2	8	9
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9	4	1	8	6	3	7	2	5
3	7	6	5	1	2	9	4	8
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7	3	8	9	4	5	6	1	2

Niles man gets prison time on multiple charges

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Two area men were sentenced to prison Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Swartz

Ryan Eugene Swartz, 50, of Niles, pleaded guilty to use of meth second offense, third degree fleeing and eluding and resisting and obstructing police and was sentenced to concurrent terms of 16 months to two years, 20 months to five years and 16 months to two years in prison. He must pay $338 in fines and costs.

He has credit for no days served as he was on parole at the time of the incident. These concurrent prison terms are consecutive to any prison term he gets for violating his parole from a 2021 possession of meth prison sentence.

The incident occurred July 12 in Niles Township. Swartz led police on a chase into Cass County with several police officers involved. He was found to have a BB gun and knife when he was stopped.

"He ran a stop sign and through a crash scene, Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Kate Arnold said. "He led police on a 30 minute chase into Cass County with multiple police agencies giving chase. Police discovered the weapons and that he was an absconder from parole when they stopped him. He clearly hasn't learned anything."

Defense attorney Shayne Williams said Swartz has mental health issues and was not taking his medications at the time of the incident. "He's told me that he's looking forward to taking advantage of the prison programs," she said. "He realizes that he's going back to prison and he wants to use that time positively."

Swartz said he took responsibility for his actions. "I know it was reckless, I apologize to the officers," he said.

Berrien County Trial Court Judge Jennifer Smith said that if Swartz had gotten substance abuse treatment in the past but that it hadn't had any effect if he had. "Until you're ready to do that, you will be back," she said. "Now that you recognize you have issues, it's up to you to do something."

"You put a number of people in danger," she added. "This was not your first go around, you had a fleeing and eluding in 2021 as well."

Ernesto Japon Lopez, 68, of Berrien Springs, pleaded guilty to unarmed robbery and was sentenced to 24 months to 15 years in prison with credit for 173 days already served. He must pay $198 in fines and costs as well as $395.41 in restitution. A restitution hearing will be held at a later date for other restitution amounts under dispute.

Lopez

The incident occurred April 17 in Oronoko Township when he forced an elderly woman to write a check to him. He had initially been charged with armed robbery and felonious assault but those charges were dismissed.

Arnold noted that Lopez had been doing odd jobs in the past for the victim who is 85 and stood over her as she wrote out the check on this occasion. "She was very frightened," Arnold said. "She was injured and she doesn't feel safe in her house now. He threatened to kill her."

Arnold said that police found ammunition and

See PRISON, Page A8

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A6

there, she was a chaplain at Rush Hospital in Chicago. Her first clergy job was as an Associate Rector in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at Christ Episcopal Church, North Hills, from January 1997 to March 2000. She moved to Dowagiac, Michigan in 2000 to become the Rector at St.Paul's Episcopal Church.

In 2004, Pamela was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. She lived well beyond her initial life expectancy. Pamela lived 18 years before needing any radiation and/or chemotherapy. She was an involved metastatic breast cancer patient advocate as demonstrated by her participation: in a documentary, "The Quiet War," as an interviewee with the New York Times, on a panel at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, as an application reviewer for the Breast Cancer Research Program for the Department of Defense, and meeting with lobbyists and politicians to get equal and excellent insurance for all breast cancer patients.

At home, Pamela enjoyed family dinners and conversation, cat and dog snuggles, and playing games.

She was married to the love of her life, Michael Heidenreich, for over 22 years. They shared a love of family, animals, political debates, learning, and taking care of each other.

Even in death, Pamela was thinking of helping others as she has donated her body to the University of Michigan School of Medicine for research.

There will be two funeral services. Please join the family for either service. The first service will be held in Dowagiac, Michigan at Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, on Friday, October 18th with Visitation from 10 AM to 11 AM, and the Service at 11 AM. A second memorial service will be held in Muskegon, Michigan on Friday, November 22nd at St.Gregory's Episcopal Church, 1200 Seminole Rd, with Visitation from 10 AM to 11 AM and a Church Service from 11 AM to 12:15 PM.

In lieu of flowers, it was Pamela's request that donations be made to American Breast Cancer Foundation or Big Lake Humane Society.

The family would like to give gratitude to: Becky at Landmark Health, and CentriCare Home Health & Hospice.

Please visit Pamela's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave condolences to her family at www.clarkch.com.

Pink is "in"
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This month, we're honoring all the women who have fought the devastating effects of breast cancer.

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As we observe this important time of year, we reflect on the impact this disease has on the lives of women in Michigan and all across America. We remember and honor these women, their families, and all those they love. Our staff members at all Starks Family Funeral Homes are wearing pink to support those who survived, and more importantly, to honor those who did not.

We've seen firsthand the terrible effects of breast cancer among members of our own families. That has committed us to raising awareness and money to find a cure for a disease that strikes one in every eight women in our country.

We hope you'll join us in honoring and remembering breast cancer victims and survivors. And we hope you'll contribute to the research that seeks to end its devastating effects on our wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters.

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MDHHS announces Children Trust Michigan grants to help prevent child abuse

COMMUNITY REPORT

LANSING — The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced the Children Trust Michigan's Board of Directors approval of $1.28 million for four Michigan community-based organizations to support child abuse prevention programs and services.

The grants will be funded over a four-year period. Winning grant proposals were selected through a competitive bid process. Strong emphasis was placed on assuring funded initiatives are appropriately integrated into broader community plans for serving children and families.

"MDHHS is fully committed to keeping Michigan kids safe," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "Children Trust Michigan provides critical funding to community-based organizations across Michigan that prevent child abuse and neglect. Their prevention efforts are a key part of MDHHS's Keep Kids Safe Action Agenda."

Children Trust Michigan (CTM) is a nonprofit housed within MDHHS. CTM partners with MDHHS on a variety of initiatives and projects implemented by CTM.

"It is always exciting to award critical funds for the prevention of child abuse and neglect," said Suzanne Greenberg, CTM executive director. "Our prevention team will work closely with our new grantees to build protective factors for children and families that will make safe, healthy and happy childhoods possible for Michigan's children."

The four organizations receiving funding are:

- The Children's Center, Wayne County, $320,000 for expansion of the Family Resource Center to help families meet their basic needs and Parent Cafés.
- Centro Multicultural La Familia Inc., Oakland County, $320,000 for their Opening Doors Program and Parent Cafés.
- Van Buren Intermediate School District, Van Buren County, $320,000 for Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Program.
- YMCA of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, $320,000 for Crisis Nursery, Respite Care for Parenting Persons.

With the newly funded initiatives, combined with other multi-year grant commitments and the statewide network of local councils, CTM distributed more than $2.6 million in FY24 in support of child abuse prevention programming across the 83 counties in Michigan.

Keep Kids Safe Action Agenda

The Keep Kids Safe Action Agenda, announced in 2023, includes more than 20 protocols and policies to improve the safety and well-being of Michigan children. Developed over the course of more than four years, the agenda relies on best practices in child welfare and commits the department to the nation's highest standards. The action agenda highlights the steps MDHHS has taken and will continue to take that can be separated into five categories – prevention, intervention, stability, wellness and workforce.

To learn more about Children Trust Michigan, its efforts to end child abuse and where its programs and services visit ChildrenTrustMichigan.org.

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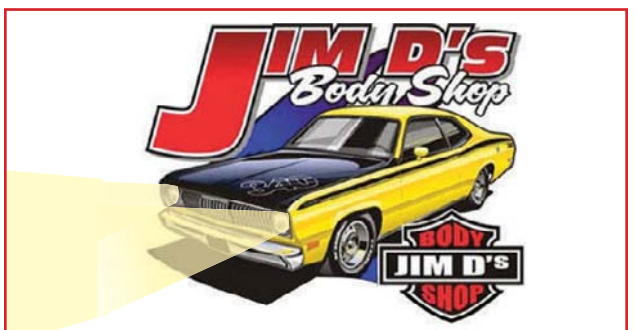

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TABLE

Continued from page A1

we're needed. We're truly grateful to have the opportunity to give back in such a meaningful way."

As part of their $30,000 state-wide Pantry PowerUp initiative, Honor Credit Union has donated $2,500 to the Bread of Life pantry in Dowagiac and $2,500 to the Bread of Life pantry in Benton Harbor to help meet the increasing demand for food assistance.

"This donation means so much to us and Bread of Life," said Janie Reifenberg, Honor Credit Union's Community Development Officer, while attending the $2,500 check donation to Bread of Life in Dowagiac. "They do incredible work to ensure that no one goes hungry, and we're honored to help them continue their mission. It's truly rewarding to know that this contribution will have a direct and positive impact on so many local families."

Honor encourages everyone to support local food banks and other community initiatives. Contributions, whether through donations, volunteering, or spreading awareness, all play a crucial role in making a difference.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Honor Credit Union at (800) 442-2800 or visit a member center near you.

LMC

Continued from page A1

federal Pell Grants receive an extra $1,000 for living expenses including books, transportation, and rent. LMC also aligned its own scholarship programs to further incentivize high school graduates to pursue a career skill certificate or associate degree.

"We are committed to ensuring financial challenges don't stand in the way of students who want to advance their education and careers. With the support of the LMC Foundation and our generous donors, we've increased funding to help cover not only tuition but also books and other essential educational resources," Kubatzke said.

This combination of financial aid programs is specifically designed to support students from LMC's district, ensuring that graduates from in-district high schools can access Lake Michigan's career-focused education without incurring heavy financial burdens.

Reaching more students

Beyond local success, LMC's influence is expanding nationwide and globally. This fall, the college enrolled students from 101 high schools across Michigan, 14 other states, and 12 countries. Berrien County remains a cornerstone of the college's recruitment efforts, with LMC achieving substantial increases in enrollment from Saint Joseph, Berrien Springs, Eau Claire, and River Valley high schools.

LMC's wide-ranging impact on the community extends beyond its enrollment numbers. The college's programs are designed to equip students with the skills needed to succeed in today's rapidly evolving workforce. From cutting-edge technical training to professional certificates in in-demand fields, LMC continues to fulfill its mission of creating a brighter future for its students and their communities.

LMC is a fully accredited, nonprofit, two-year community college, one of 31 across Michigan. With its main campus in Benton Harbor and an additional campus in South Haven, LMC also offers courses at satellite locations including the Bertrand Innovation Center in Niles and the Allegan Tech Center, making higher education more accessible to students in a variety of locations across the region.

For additional information, contact the Lake Michigan College Admissions Office at (269) 927-8626 or email admissions@lakemichigancollege.edu.

SEAT

Continued from page A3

board members. Monday, McKee appointed Jarpe and McCombs as the two board representatives on the ad hoc committee.

Board members have been divided on what to do about the new Title IX rules. Jarpe and Jessica Crouch spoke last month in favor of adopting the Title IX language proposed by the district's attorneys. Crouch said that the proposed policy gives her more protections and Jarpe said he feared legal ramifications for the district if the policy is not adopted.

Payne said he believed any policy the board adopts for the district should protect everyone's privacy and that the primary focus should be the safety and security of all students. He said students should be protected who are not comfortable with biological males and females entering spaces they were previously not allowed to enter.

Other action at Monday's meeting included re-establishing mileage and meal reimbursement rates for staff members as well as approving a fifth grade overnight camp request and the list of career technical education courses the district is offering this year.

In reports, Walker acknowledged October as Principals Month in Michigan and praised the work of the district's four principals. "We have great principals who are great models for the staff and students and who put students first in everything they do," he said.

He also noted that Oct. 2 was Custodial Day and he recognized the work of DM Burr, the company providing custodial service to the district. He said big improvements have been made over the last year with the district's buildings much cleaner.

The final report Walker gave was about students' reading abilities in developmental kindergarten. He noted that none of the 32 students in developmental kindergarten required individual reading improvement plans with all scoring above threshold levels on standardized tests.

"We've seen a good increase in reading scores and I attribute that to the work of interventionists, teachers and other staff," he said. "Things are going really well with the reading program."

PRISON

Continued from page A7

weapons including a machete and knives in their search of Lopez's home.

Defense attorney Carri Briseno noted that Lopez only had one previous arrest and that charge was later dismissed. "He is well educated and been successful," she said. "In retirement, he has done other odd jobs. Unfortunately, he is here before the court. He could benefit from probation."

Judge Smith said she was concerned about Lopez having weapons and threatening the victim to give him money. "She deserves to feel safe in her home, she felt terrorized," the judge said. "She's 85, she deserves to be safe. She was actually physically injured in this incident. This type of crime is very serious."

"The victim testified at the preliminary hearing that you had been doing some jobs for her and that you went to the same church," she said. "She said you came that day saying you needed money. You would come and do jobs she didn't need done and demand payment. She would pay so you would go away. On this day, she decided she wouldn't pay."

"You're 68 and she's 85," the judge added. "It's odd that you would commit this crime out of nowhere. Your wife said you had a brain injury two years ago and it had some effect on your personality … This was certainly out of the blue. I'm not sure this was a wake up call, but I hope you will take a look at it when you get out of prison."

Niles Daily Star
Sports

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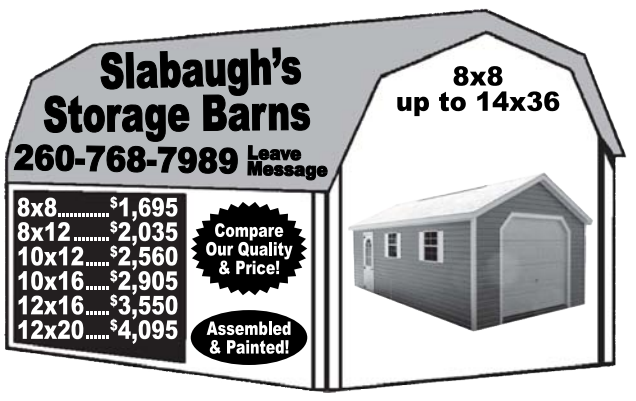

FOOTBALL

Dowagiac earns 63-0 win over Brandywine; game called after halftime

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac football team only needed to play two quarters on Friday to earn a homecoming win against visiting Brandywine.

After the Chieftains jumped out to a 63-0 halftime lead, the short-handed Bobcats chose not to go on with the game. Dowagiac led 35-0 at halftime. The Chieftains' 63 points were their most since the 2017 team defeated Otsego 67-7 and its 63-point win margin was the most since 1999, a 70-0 win over South Bend La Salle.

According to Brandywine head coach Justin Kinzie, the Bobcats had six players leave the game with injuries, including two who were hospitalized. Kinzie said two two-way starters were injured on the first two plays of the game.

"It was a tough night," Kinnzie said. "I'm proud of how many freshmen and sophomores stepped up. But there comes a certain point where you have to look on the field and recognize, we can't continue to safely play this game."

Kaleb Smith, who was crowned homecoming king at halftime, tallied three rushing touchdowns and Isaiah Fitchett was 3 of 4 passing for 53 yards and 3 touchdown passes. Skyler Vincek returned a fumble on the kickoff for a touchdown, Devin Rock scored a touchdown run and Jamal Williams caught a touchdown and had a 52-yard interception return touchdown while LaMone Moore Jr. also found the end zone twice.

"We were not worried about what they did, it was about us," said Dowagiac coach Duane Davis. "I was so proud of them because they kept coming to me and they tapped on their chest 'It's all about us, coach.' They don't care who lines up across from; they have to worry about themselves and the team and we move on."

See WIN, Page B3

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

SOCCER

"We are immensely proud of the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship our players have shown. throughout the season. Their commitment to the team and each other has been nothing short of inspiring. and we will continue to support them in every way possible."
— **Lindsay Gorham-Pflug**

CASSOPOLIS CANCELS LAST TWO GAMES OF FOOTBALL SEASON

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS – Cassopolis Public Schools has canceled its remaining varsity football games for the season, the district announced Thursday.

"After careful consideration and thorough discussions with coaches and school administrators, I regret to inform you that we have made the difficult decision to cancel the remainder of this year's varsity football season," stated CPS High School Principal and Athletic Director Lindsay Gorham-Pflug in a news release. "This decision was not made lightly, and we understand the disappointment it brings to our athletes, their families, and the community. However, the health, safety, and well-being of our students remain our top priority. Recent circumstances, including numerous injuries, have made it clear that continuing the season would pose unnecessary risks to our athletes."

The Rangers were 0-5 on the season before earning a 27-24 win against Comstock last week. The Rangers were scheduled to face Decatur this week and Dowagiac Friday, Oct. 25.

"We are immensely proud of the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship our players have shown throughout the season," Gorham-Pflug stated. "Their commitment to the team and each other has been nothing short of inspiring. and we will continue to support them in every way possible."

The district has scheduled a special event at 7 p.m. Friday at William F. Scott Field to honor its senior band members, football players and Senior cheerleaders for their dedication, hard work, and school spirit throughout the years. Admission is free and the band will perform its 2024 fall show.

"We appreciate your understanding, patience, and continued support during this time," Gorham-Pflug stated. "If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our priority is to provide clear communication and ensure that our students feel supported as we navigate this together."

"Thank you for being such a vital part of our school community."

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

SOCCER

Edwardsburg soccer blanks Niles in district opener

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — The Buchanan soccer team made quick work of Coloma in the opening round of Division 3 district play Wednesday night.

Trailing 1-0 early, the Bucks reeled off nine consecutive goals in the first half to earn a 9-1 victory.

"We played them early in the season and beat them 8-1," said head coach Ryan Haines. "Obviously, them scoring right away wasn't part of the plan, but that just goes to show, it doesn't matter which team it is – if you're not locked in and focused on the game, anything can happen against a team like Coloma or anybody. That mistake will be corrected and we'll do that moving forward."

Mason Frontczak led the team with five goals and had two assists and Easton May tallied a hat trick to go along with three assists while Jacob Kuntz also scored a goal. Charlie Cowart made one save in net. Frontczak has 23 goals on the year and May has 15

See BLANKS, Page B3

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Gavyn Luke (2) from Niles tries to gain control of the ball while Jonathan Pepper (21) of Edwardsburg defends.

Frontczak, May lead Buchanan soccer to 9-1 win over Coloma in district opener

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

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Mason Frontczak led the

See LEAD, Page B3

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

SMC volleyball Sweeps Marian Ancilla

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — SMC Volleyball returned to the 1st Source Bank Fieldhouse and to their winning ways on Tuesday with a sweep of the visiting Marian Ancilla Chargers in a total team effort 25-21, 25-15, and 25-20.

"We had a great practice yesterday, and the team knows the importance of putting all of our focus only on the match in front of us, and we did exactly that tonight," said Head Coach Jenny Nate. "We were also able to achieve the sweep with our entire team playing except for our current injured players. Our goal is balanced scoring and a multitude of offensive shots. I was really pleased with that tonight as well as playing much cleaner ball and having fewer errors. This was a great win, but we will be studying film late tonight and back to work tomorrow in the gym preparing to take on Lansing Thursday."

The team also honored sophomore Cadence Knight, who crossed the 1,000 career digs mark over the weekend in Grand Rapids. Knight is the SMC career digs leader – she had 548 digs her freshman year and 495 so far this year for a total of 1,033 digs coming into tonight's match...and will add to that for the rest of the season.

The Roadrunners are now 16-9 overall and 5-2 in the MCCAA Western Conference, currently holding sole possession of second place.

Leading serving scorers: Josie West 9 points, 1 ace; Cadence Knight 8 points; Talan Hiemstra 7 points, 2 aces; Carlie Ritchie 6 points; Ryli Burks 6 points, 2 aces; Anna Johnson 3 points, 1 ace; Reese Maas 3 points, 1 ace; Bri Russell 2 points; Gia Jania 1 poin

Kills: Kallie Solloway 12, Abi Marquis 10, Gia Jania 7, Talan Hiemstra 5, Josie West 4, Reese Maas 4

Blocks: Abi Marquis 3, Gia Jania 2, Talan Hiemstra 2, Ryli Burks 1, Josie West 1

Digs: Cadence Knight 16, Ryli Burks 10, Josie West 8, Talan Hiemstra 4, Anna Johnson 4, Amanda Jones 3, Kallie Solloway 3

Assists: Ryli Burks 17, Anna Johnson 11, Cadence Knight 5, Reese Maas 4

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

FOOTBALL

Niles football downs Vicksburg 49-7

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

VICKSBURG — The Niles football team took care of business on the road Friday against Vicksburg.

The Vikings scored 49 unanswered points on their way to a 49-7 Wolverine Conference victory. Niles outgained Vicksburg 365-164 in total yards, including a 341-56 advantage in rushing yards. Peyton Gordon had five carries for 117 yards and three touchdowns and Paul Hess had 14 carries for 119 yards and two touchdowns while Guy Torres added a 4-yard touchdown run. Sam Rucker had 31 rushing yards and a 64-yard punt return touchdown and Brenden Olsen added a 23-yard catch. Talen Bennett completed 2 of 4 passes for 24 yards and an interception.

On defense, Ward Cheney led the team with seven tackles and Jaden Ivery added six while Hess and Sam Rucker each tallied a sack.

The Vikings (5-1) are on the road next week Friday against rival Edwardsburg.

Buchanan falls to Berrien Springs 31-6

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — The Buchanan football team fell to Berrien Springs 31-6 Friday in Lakeland Conference action.

Trailing 3-0 at halftime, the Bucks responded in the third quarter with a 13-yard Brody Reed touchdown run to go up 6-3. The Shamrocks bounced back, scoring 28 unanswered points to seal the victory.

Buchanan quarterback Lucas Zeiger completed 6 of 18 passes for 50 yards and an interception and Gabe Tompkins had 11 carries for 35 yards. Darius Williams had two catches for 31 yards. On defense, Tyler Baker had nine tackles and Jameson Pleasant had eight.

"Our guys fought hard all night and were in a much closer game than the score shows," said Buchanan coach Mark Frey. "Berrien is a strong team and unfortunately we didn't play a penalty free game and we physically struggled by the end. However there were many bright spots on the night and we can use those to get focused on the last three weeks of the regular season."

PHOTOS BY MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Times, Networks Released For Games Against Purdue, USC

COMMUNITY REPORT

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — With less than a month to go until Notre Dame women's basketball tips off, the times have been confirmed for a pair of Big Ten clashes, including a likely top-10 showdown.

Notre Dame's first away game of the season against Purdue will air on FS1 at 7 p.m.

The Irish faced the Boilermakers last season and won 76-39 behind Hannah Hidalgo's 23 points, 10 rebounds, 8 assists and 7 steals plus Maddy Westbeld's 15 points and 12 boards. It was the first time Purdue was held under 40 points since 2018.

The Boilermakers lost their leading scorers Abbey Ellis and Caitlyn Harper this offseason and will look to rising sophomore and South Bend native Rashunda Jones to build on a freshman season after which she was named to the Big Ten All-Freshman Team. Also a rising sophomore, Sophie Swanson returns after averaging 7.1 points in just 12.6 minutes per game last year.

The Irish will play USC on NBC at 4 p.m. ET. The matchup will lead into Notre Dame football's primetime matchup against Army at Yankee Stadium.

The two annual football foes have not played on the basketball court since 2011, but there are numerous connections between these rosters. The matchup will pit last year's rookie phenoms against each other in Notre Dame's Hannah Hidalgo and USC's JuJu Watkins. Hidalgo ranked sixth nationally with 22.6 points per game (which was also the Notre Dame program record) and led the nation with 4.6 steals per contest, while Watkins was second in scoring with 27.1 points per game.

Both programs also added notable, high-level transfers this offseason. Notre Dame welcomed All-ACC forward Liatu King and All-BIG EAST forward Liza Karlen. King played at Pittsburgh for her first four years, while Karlen was at Marquette. USC added both Kiki Iriafen and Talia von Oelhoffen from Stanford and Oregon State, respectively. Iriafen was the Pac-12's Most Improved Player last season, and both players were on the All-Pac 12 Team.

Also of note, Notre Dame freshman Kate Koval will get to see her high school teammate and fellow rookie Kayleigh Heckel in Los Angeles. They were both McDonald's All-Americans last season and five-star recruits according to the 2024 ESPN HoopGurlz Recruiting Rankings.

BLANKS

Continued from page B1

goals and 16 assists on the year. The Bucks have outscored their opponents 59-17 this year.

Tyrell Taylor-Owens scored Coloma's lone goal.

"It's been a connection between (Frontczak and May) most of the year," Haines said. Probably half of May's goals have been to Mason. There's been a good connection between those two. Having Mason be a senior does hurt a little bit but having May be a sophomore, we have him for a couple more years, so that's good. Between the two of them, no matter the opponent, they still give it as much as they can but in this case, we were able to get eight goals between the two of them and put the game away."

The win brings Buchanan's record to 13-2-3 as it prepares for Monday's district semifinal game at 7 p.m. at Berrien Springs.

"It's really been outstanding across the board," Haines said. "As a first year coach for me coming off the team that it was last year, it's good that we're a 13-win team this year," Haines said. We're young, we've got nine freshmen and I start four of them, so we have a lot to build on as we progress. The guys are happy, obviously the parents are, too. The one thing that I've stressed with them is that when we're here, we're here to conduct business but the game should be fun no matter what. You can tell right now that's what we're having."

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Niles goal keeper Josue Gonzalez makes a save in the first half against Edwardsburg.

LEAD

Continued from page B1

team with five goals and had two assists and Easton May tallied a hat trick to go along with three assists while Jacob Kuntz also scored a goal. Charlie Cowart made one save in net. Frontczak has 23 goals on the year and May has 15 goals and 16 assists on the year. The Bucks have outscored their opponents 59-17 this year.

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WIN

Continued from page B1

According to records dating back to 1950, the Chieftains have scored more than 60 points in back-to-back games for the first time since 1990, the year the Chieftains won the Class B state championship. The 1990 Chieftains had a stretch of four straight games of 60-plus points.

Davis was proud of his team's performance from the top-down but said that freshman nose guard Khalif Renya's performance stood out.

"We just brought him up this week and he took care of the center of the field for us," Davis said. "Their running back's good – I've seen them for three years. Sobecki, that kid is legit and he did a good job against him and I was proud of him. The freshman kid stepping up was big."

As for the Brandywine, the 0-6 Bobcats are hoping to be able to play against Benton Harbor next week. The Tigers are 0-6 on the season.

"We might have to convert some guys to other positions but obviously we couldn't do that mid-game," Kinzie said.

The Chieftains are 5-1 for the first time since 2013 and hope to lock up a postseason berth next week against Berrien Springs. The Shamrocks defeated Buchanan 31-6 in their quest for a Lakeland Conference title.

"That's a tough team we're going against, I'm not going to sugarcoat it," Davis said. "But we're gonna get back to work Sunday, early and go right to the weight room and watch film and get going. That's our goal right now is next week. We're 1-0 and moving on. That's all it is."

Larry Joe Scoggins Estate
Estate Auction
Monday - October 21 @ 11:00 A.M.
Located at 2339 Miller Rd. - Buchanan, MI
Tractor: John Deere 1025R Diesel Tractor w/H120 Loader and 54D Auto-Connect Mowing Deck. **Implements:** JD 54 Quick Attach Snow Blower; JD Quick Attach Forks; 5 Ft. Angle Blade; King-Kutter Compact-XB 4 Ft. Tiller; JD 10 Ft. Transport Disk. **Harley:** 1982 Harley-Davidson "Super-Glide" Motorcycle w/1,339 Miles; **Outside Items:** 2017 Tracker 16 Ft. Aluminum Fishing Boat; 1997 Star-Craft 13 Ft. Aluminum Fishing Boat; (2) Yamaha Elec. Golf Carts; Old Clark LP Fork-lift; Old A.C. "B" Tractor; **Old Motors:** Water-Loo Hit & Miss; Cushman 1-1/2 HP Model 21 Type X Motor; Maytag Washing Machine Motor; **Tools:** Snap-On Tool Chest; MAC Tool Chest; Assortment of Wood Working Tools; Sockets; Nuts & Bolts. **Household Items:** John Deere Collectibles; M & M Collectibles; Depression Glass; Misc. Household Items.
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GENERAC

NOTICE OF ELECTION
NILES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

To the qualified electors of Niles Community Schools in the Counties of Berrien and Cass, State of Michigan.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A GENERAL ELECTION will be held at the precincts listed below on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024** to elect two (2) School Board Members for a six (6) year term and one (1) School Board Member for a partial term ending December 31, 2028.

BERRIEN COUNTY:
During Early Voting, **Saturday, OCTOBER 26, 2024 – Sunday, NOVEMBER 3, 2024**, polls for all electors of Niles Community Schools in **Niles City, Berrien Township, Bertrand Charter Township, and Niles Charter Township,** Berrien County, Michigan will be located at the **SOUTH COUNTY EARLY VOTING SITE, at the SOUTH COUNTY BUILDING, 1205 N. FRONT STREET, NILES, MI 49120** during the following times:

Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3
8:30 AM-4:30 PM	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	11:00 AM-7:00 PM	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	8:30 AM-4:30 PM

On Election Day, **Tuesday, NOVEMBER 5, 2024**, polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM and that day the election will be held at the following locations:

Niles City:	Pct. 1	YMCA, 905 N. Front Street
	Pct. 2	YMCA, 905 N. Front Street
	Pct. 3	Niles Fire Station, 1345 E. Main
	Pct. 4	FOP Lodge 95, 531 N. State St.
Berrien Township:	Pct. 1	Twp. Hall, 8916 M-140 (Niles Community Schools Voters Only)
Bertrand Charter Township:	Pct. 1	Twp. Hall, 3835 Buffalo Rd. (Niles Community Schools Voters Only)
Niles Charter Township:	Pct. 1	Fairland Church, 1811 River Bluff Rd. (Niles Community Schools Voters Only)
	Pct. 2	Police Complex, 1600 Silverbrook Ave.
	Pct. 5	Bend of the River Conservation Club, 900 Mayflower Rd. (Niles Community Schools Voters Only)

CASS COUNTY:
During Early Voting, **Saturday, OCTOBER 26, 2024 – Sunday, NOVEMBER 3, 2024**, polls for all electors of Niles Community Schools in **Howard Township and Pokagon Township,** Cass County, Michigan will be located at the **CASS COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION, 340 N. O'Keefe St., Cassopolis, MI 49031** during the following times:

Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3
8:00 AM-4:00 PM	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	8:00 AM-4:00 PM

On Election Day, **Tuesday, NOVEMBER 5, 2024**, polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM and that day the election will be held at the following locations:

Howard Township:	Pct. 1	1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles (Niles Community Schools Voters Only)
	Pct. 2	Fire Station, 2690 Lakeshore Dr., Niles (Niles Community Schools Voters Only)
Pokagon Township:	Pct 1	30683 Peavine St., Dowagiac (Niles Community Schools Voters Only)

The full text of the ballots may be obtained at the City/Township Clerk's Office at the location listed above. A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Persons with special needs, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact their city/township clerk.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the city/township clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Absentee Voter ballots are available through your local city or township clerk's office.
SHARON TYLER, BERRIEN COUNTY CLERK

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Employment

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Auctions & Sales

Garage Sales

Annual Fall Sale
Community Grange Hall
32981 Pokagon Hwy, Niles
(IN SUMNERVILLE NEAR OTI'S)
Saturday, October 12th
9:00a.m.-4:00p.m
New, in-box tools and work lights, refresh items, Tupperware, Relay For Life, Many books & puzzles, odds and ends.
All indoors.
Handicap-accessible.
(269)683-0873

Fall Rummage & Bake Sale
First United Methodist Church
326 North Lowe Street, Dowagiac,
October 11th & 12th
Friday 9am-4pm &
Saturday 9am-3pm
Sat. 1/2 price sale and $4 bag sale buy
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Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor
Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

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Community Events

University of Notre Dame du Lac in Notre Dame, Indiana, duLac@nd.edu

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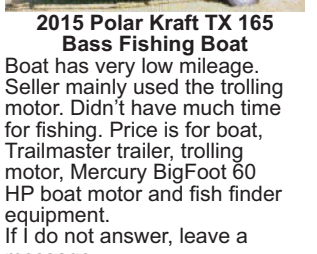

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Boat has very low mileage. Seller mainly used the trolling motor. Didn't have much time for fishing. Price is for boat, Trailmaster trailer, trolling motor, Mercury BigFoot 60 HP boat motor and fish finder equipment.
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Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Auctioning off a few abandoned cars on Thursday, October 17th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at RB Towing 68686 M 62, Edwardsburg, MI 491122

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 12, 2024
ABANDONED VEHICLES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice Aloha Storage located at 3001 South 11th Street Niles MI 49120 intends to hold an auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur at the facility on 10/21/2024 at 12:00PM. Unless otherwise stated in the below list of Unit #'s the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #D007. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5 and 12, 2024
L2L- 52457

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

PROJECT: City of Buchanan McCoy Creek Culvert Project CONTRACT DESCRIPTION: Culvert replacement along 100 linear feet (LFT) of an existing/failing culvert to be constructed with an equal or greater hydraulic capacity. On each 50 LFT side, the new culvert shall include a total of 100 LFT of steel sheet pile (SSP) wall installation, utility penetrations through the sheeting for existing public utilities (including as-needed repairs, replacements, and temporary disconnections), and a concrete cap supported by helical piers for lateral support. The scope of work also includes concrete sidewalk replacement, preservation of brick pavers, SESC and local permits with applicable permit measures, temporary traffic control measures, as-needed dewatering, site restoration, and miscellaneous site improvements (handrail edge protection, repair allowance for irrigation and electrical systems). All work must reach substantial completion on or before May 16, 2025, and final completion by May 23, 2025.
CONTRACT DOCUMENTS: Electronic contract documents can be downloaded for free from the Abonmarche website: www.abonmarche.com/bids or City of Buchanan website: https://www.cityofbuchanan.com/rfps. Register on the Abonmarche website to be included on the Plan Holders List. Bidding documents will be posted online on Saturday, October 12, 2024.
NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID: A pre-bid meeting is not planned or scheduled, but bidders are encouraged to visit the site prior to preparing/submitting a bid. Technical questions shall be submitted by Monday, October 28, 2024 by 2:00 pm ET via email to: mrivas@abonmarche.com -and- sleblang@abonmarche.com.
BID OPENING: Monday, November 4, 2024, at 2:00 pm ET. Sealed bids shall be received by the Owner (City of Buchanan) at said date and time. Sealed bids bearing the project name as well as the bidder's name and address shall be submitted to: City of Buchanan, 302 N Redbud Trail, Buchanan, MI 49107. Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis.
BIDDING INSTRUCTIONS & SECURITY: A certified check, cashier's check or bid bond in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid, made payable to the Owner will be required with each bid as security for the proper execution of the contract. A 100% Labor, Material, and Performance Bond will be required of a successful bidder. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled opening without the consent of the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in bidding or to accept the bid, consistent with law, which best serves the interest of the Owner. The contractor and any subcontractors shall not discriminate against an employee or applicant for employment with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, or a matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status or a disability that is unrelated to the individual's ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position.

ENGINEER:
Michael Morphey, PE, Sr. Project Manager
(269) 926-4559
Abonmarche Consultants, Inc.
95 West Main Street,
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

OWNER:
Tim Lynch, City Manager
City of Buchanan
(269) 695-3844
302 N Redbud Trail
Buchanan, MI 49107

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 12, 2024
BIDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Auction
Saturday October 19, 2024
at 11:00 am

Furniture, tools, appliances, clothing & miscellaneous abandoned items.

Jacob Baber
Kim Bailey
William Bieritz
Woodrow Bowers
Jason Bridges
Charidy Fuller
Liza Green
Jennifer Hansford
Ashley Hanson
Joe Knuckles
Sheilla Marshall
Jeni Oaks
Michael Pierucki
Steven Poff
Dina Rodriguez
Jason Taravat
Caitlyn Wade

Sale to be at:
Eddies Key Lock Storage
26065 US 12
Edwardsburg Mi 49112

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5 and 12, 2024
STORAGE AUCTION

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE

Default having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made by PAUL E. MADDEN, a single man, 22338 US Hwy 12, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112, to OAK MORTGAGE, 125 E. Chicago Road, Sturgis, Michigan 49091 dated August 24, 2017 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Cass and State of Michigan, on August 28, 2017 in Liber 1127, Page 2278 there is claimed to be due at the date of this notice, for principal and interest the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Six and 23/100 ($124,486.23) Dollars due on the mortgage and no proceedings having been instituted to recover the debt now remaining secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof, where by the power of sale contained in said Mortgage has become operative;
Now Therefore, Notice is Hereby Given that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided, the said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises therein described or so much thereof as may be necessary, at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the Cass County Courts and Law Building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 in the City of Cass, and County of Cass, Michigan, that being the place of holding Circuit Court in and for said County, on November 6, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, and said premises will be sold to pay the amount as aforesaid . then due on said Mortgage together with 5.67% percent interest, legal costs, attorneys' fees and also any taxes and insurance that said Mortgagee does pay on or prior to the date of said sale; which said premises are described as follows, to-wit:
The land referred to in this policy, situated in the Township of Ontwa, County of Cass, State of Michigan, is described as follows:
Lots 3 and 26 and the West 59 feet of Lots 2 and 27, Adamsport, according to the recorded plat in Liber A of Plats, Page 36, Cass County Records, ALSO, the Northerly 20 feet of Lot 28 and the Northerly 20 feet of the Easterly 16 feet of Lot 27, Adamsport, EXCEPT part of Lots 2 and 27 described as: from the Southeast corner of Lot 2, measure North 71 degrees 11 minutes West along the South line of said Lot, 16 feet; thence measure North 18 degrees 27 minutes East, parallel with the East line of said Lot, 122.15 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence North 10 degrees 11 minutes East, 139.85 feet; thence South 71 degrees 17 minutes East, 20 feet; thence South 18 degrees 27 minutes West, 138.35 feet to the point of beginning.
PIN: 14-090-050-002-00
Property Address: 22338 US Hwy 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112
Pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the last day to redeem the Sheriff's Deed will be May 6, 2025, however, if an Affidavit of Abandonment is filed with the Register of Deeds, the last day to redeem will be December 6, 2024, or until the time to provide the notice was required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later.
If said property is in fact sold at the above-described foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the above listed Mortgagor will be responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to Oak Mortgage LLC for damaging the property during the redemption period.
ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.
Dated: October 12, 2024
OAK MORTGAGE, LLC
Mortgagee
HaasCaywood PC
By: P. Joseph Haas, Jr.
Attorney for OAK MORTGAGE, LLC
Business Address:
112 South Monroe Street
Sturgis, MI 49091

Niles Daily Star: Oct. 12, 19, 26 and Nov. 2, 2024
FC/MADDEN

PUBLIC NOTICE

ONTWA TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that the Ontwa Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 7:00 pm., at the Ontwa Township Hall located at 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112, to consider a proposed amendment to the Ontwa Township Zoning Ordinance.
The proposed amendments are summarized as follows:
• An amendment to Section 3.21 of the zoning ordinance is proposed that modify subsections i, j, and k. The intent of the proposed amendment is to regulate the maximum height and maximum area of accessory buildings in the R-2 zoning district in the same manner as in other residential districts.
Copies of the Township proposed amendments, the zoning ordinance, and the zoning map are available for public viewing during regular business hours at the Township Hall, 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112, or on the Township website: www.ontwatwp.org.
Written comments will be received from any interested persons by the Ontwa Township Clerk at the Ontwa Township Hall during regular business hours and may be further received by the Planning Commission during the public hearing.
Oral comments will be taken during the hearing.
If you are planning to attend this hearing and are handicapped requiring any special assistance, please notify the Township Clerk by calling (269) 663-2347 as soon as possible.
Tina VanBelle
Ontwa Township Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 12, 2024
MEETING

PUBLIC NOTICE

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday October 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Unit #	Name
10	Charmin Kelly
16	Tyson Fuller
58	Jonathan Stowe
63/180	Amber Schumacher-West
75	David Elam
99	Jimmie Tayler
108	Terry Riege
114	Tellie Doan
116	Melissa Kaeding
145/468	Michael Merritt
148	Gloster Johnson
151	Remy Lane
177	Larry Wegrecki
184/66	Mary Anderson
191	Alan Smith
192	Patricia Yoder
195	Daniel Beushauser
205	Nancy Bombrys
214	Amber Phillips
217	James Russell
278	Chelsie Carlyle
284	Kathleen Peterson
289	Janay Goins
315	Thomas Raybuck
321	James Browning
342	Terrence Moss
346	DaMonica Williams
352	Andre Ahlers
389	Parnell Jenkins
395	Carl Backus
410/534	Rebecca Coleman
486	Leigh Anne Norris
514	Christopher Kohut
529	Robert Wojcik
541	Nicole Hurt
545	Candy Whitmire
580	Ann Schafer
596/552/566/606/649	Anthony Marzolo
605	Michael Lewark
613	Nichola Jones
628/499	Altavious Stone
638	Britney Stanczyk
661	Rodney Prescott

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday October 26, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

23	Henry Krueger
30	Curtis Sheldon
57	Nathan Haynes

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday October 26. 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

33	Tammera Carbon
60	Samantha Williams
79	William Morris
97	Blake King
230A	Rosiley Marinho
168	Jerol Williams Jr.
173	Alex Robertson
189	Dawn Ngiramulei
238/466	James Diss
250	Robert Clayton/Jessica Vissik
253	Jesse Williams
263	Tamara Holmes
292	The Woodshed Crafts
345	Carol Morrow
370	Linda Sharrer
373	Rhonda Sue Outlaw
443	Autum Collins

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 12 and 19, 2024
STORAGE AUCTION

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CASS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
60296 M-62, CASSOPOLIS, MI 49031
(269) 445-4412
ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE
File No.: 2024-000515-CH

DEBBORAH SUE PAOLASSO and DENISE RENE PETERS Co-Trustees of the Bruce Brown and Kathleen Brown Revocable Living Trust, Plaintiffs VS UNKNOWN PARTIES, THEIR HEIRS AND SUCCESSORS WITH CLAIMS TO REAL ESTATE TAX ID: 14-040-001-010-01 Defendants

JOHN R. COLIP (P25250) BUTZEL LONG Attorneys for Plaintiffs 12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100 Niles, MI 49120 269-591-6915

ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

AT A SESSION of said Court at the Courthouse in the City of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan, on 09/19/2024
PRESENT: Honorable Carol M. Bealor, P57068
On Motion of Plaintiff, Debborah Sue Paolasso and Denise Rene Peters, Co-Trustees of the Bruce Brown and Kathleen Brown Revocable Living Trust, by and through its attorney, JOHN R. COLIP Esq., of the law firm of BUTZEL LONG, herein; the Court having read the verified Motion for Substituted Service, and being fully advised in the premises:
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, That Plaintiff's Motion for Substituted Service be, and it is hereby granted, and that service shall be made upon Defendants, in this matter by: (i) posting a copy of this Order with Attachment "A" in the Courthouse and in two other public places in LaGrange Township for three continuous weeks; and (ii) publishing this Order with Attachment "A" in the Leader, a newspaper published in Cass County, Michigan, for three consecutive weeks.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That PDQ Services is to post this Oder with Attachment "A" and provide proof of posting in compliance with this Order and file Proof of Posting with this Court.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that mailing a copy of this Order to Unknown Parties, their Heirs and Successors, is not necessary since there is no ascertainable way to determine the address nor the specific identity of those Defendants.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attachment "A" is made a part of this Order and will accompany any posting or publication.
Date: 09/19/2024
Carl M Beador
09/19/2024
Prepared by: John R. Colip, Esq. (P25250 12 Longmeadow Village Drive Suite 100 Niles, MI 49120 269-591-6915

ATTACHMENT "A" TO ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION

An action to Quiet Title has been filed in the Cass County Circuit Court, in the State of Michigan. This action is filed by Plaintiffs, Debborah Sue Paolasso and Denise Rene Peters, Co- Trustees of the Bruce Brown and Kathleen Brown Revocable Living Trust, against Defendants: Unknown Parties, their Heirs and Successors with Claims to Real Estate Tax ID: 14-040-001- 010-01, and any other persons or entities claiming any right or title to property located in LaGrange Township, Cass County, Michigan and legally described as:
Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 1, Town 6 South, Range 15 West, which point is 3.75 chains South of the intersection of the West line of Section 1 and the East line of Section 2 with the centerline of O'Keefe Street. Thence Easterly along the South line of said Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 1 to the Dowagiac Creek. Thence Southwesterly to the meander line of the Dowagiac Creek. Thence Southwesterly along said meander line to a point which is South 25° West 2.86 chains to the point of beginning.
You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in the Cass County Circuit Court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031, on or before 28 days from the date of the last publication. If you fail to do so, a Default Judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint filed in this case. You may contact the law offices of BUTZEL LONG, 12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100, Niles, MI 49120, 269-591-6915, for any information on this matter.
Prepared By: John R. Colip, Esq. (P25250) 12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100 Niles, MI 49120 269-591-6915

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 12, 19 and 26, 2024
2024-000515 -CH

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Every option, super low miles
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Only $11,900

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Perfect with low miles
Only $21,900

2017 TOYOTA PRIUS PRIME
Only 35,000 miles with every option
50 MPG's!!!
Only $24,900

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Only $26,900

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BIG BLOCK,
SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

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Off lease, one owner
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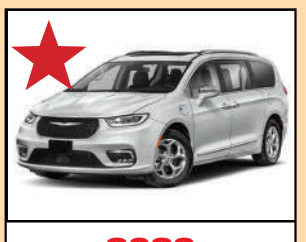

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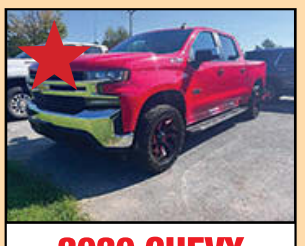

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